



Governor's Office of Emergency Services  
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## Governor's Office of Emergency Services Public/Private Partnership Initiative



# Public/Private Partnership Initiative

## Why do we need this?

From wildfires to earthquakes to winter storms, California faces more than its fair share of disasters — and is not immune to the risk of terrorism. California has a history of the public and private sector working together to reduce the impact of these disasters on businesses, employees, and the general public. Recent actions by the Governor have put additional emphasis on the importance of these partnerships to better prepare our state for future disasters.

Hurricane Katrina demonstrated the need to better integrate the private sector resources in cooperative relationship with public sector emergency management, law enforcement, rescue, medical, and public health emergency responders. The need to respond rapidly—to ensure the safety of all Californians, provide necessary emergency water, shelter, food and clothing, and to ensure the viability of economic recovery—requires the collective resources and efforts of public and private entities.

During the first few days after a disaster, government resources will be focused on saving the most critically injured and restoring life-saving infrastructure. Private industry, working hand-in-hand with government, will be essential to addressing the needs of millions of California families and businesses that may be unprepared to sustain themselves during the first few days after a major disaster.

## How can we get it done?

Recognizing this critical need, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger recently signed SB 546 authorizing the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES), in coordination with other state and local agencies, to expand existing public/private partnerships and to allow greater participation by the private sector in governmental emergency management efforts.

This legislation encourages collaboration between OES and private interests and increases integration of available disaster preparedness resources by:

- Enabling the integration of private sector activities with governmental emergency preparedness programs, and expanding preparedness beyond government-to-government relations;
- Encouraging formal relationships between government and the private sector to monitor the status of the important lifelines controlled by the private sector—from food supply to telecommunications to transportation— during disasters, and to focus resources on their restoration when it is essential to the well being of the general public;
- Providing a means for government to communicate critical information to business during emergencies so that the citizens of California, who spend much of their day at their jobs, can protect themselves and their families;
- Allowing private sector access to government facilities and information systems in order to maximize best practices and systems, and to assist and coordinate with governmental emergency operations; and
- Creating the Disaster Resistant Communities Account in the General Fund into which private donations may be deposited.

## What resources can we share?

Examples of areas where best practices, services and goods could be shared that would be critical in an effective response to a catastrophic disaster could include, but are not limited to:

### Private Resources

- Logistics systems used for transport and tracking of supplies to disaster areas and/or shelter sites.
- Facility space that could be used for needs such as warehousing/staging of supplies or shelters.
- Use of established communications networks, such the Internet or cell phone networks, to enhance alert and warning during emergencies.
- Supplies of food, water, construction materials and other critical goods to address human needs in a disaster.
- Equipment such as transportation, telecommunications, computers, etc.
- Technical/specialized skills and expertise.
- Information on status of key infrastructure in an emergency.

### OES Resources

- Training in emergency management, including the Incident Command System (ICS), the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) and the National Incident Management System (NIMS) for businesses and individuals.
- Early warning systems that alert communities and employees about impending or occurring disasters.
- Using OES' established emergency information management system, access to post status information on key facilities and/or resources provided, as well as to receive overall situation status.
- Position within the State Operations Center or other Operations Centers during emergencies for communications and coordination purposes.
- Systems to track the type, inventory, availability and deployment of critical emergency resources.



### Goals for the program.

OES' goal is to form a Public/Private Coalition including private sector members as well as representatives of government at all levels. This group will convene at regular intervals to discuss progress on this initiative, recognize successes and develop future strategies. Integration will also occur through the existing maintenance effort for California's emergency management structure: the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) Technical Group - Private/Non-Governmental Organization/Volunteer Sector subcommittee. Overall, the Public/Private Partnership initiative will be overseen by a designated Project Manager.